



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Office Report

Volume 1, Number 3



A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 26, 2004 TO MARCH 15, 2004

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or Sanctuary) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline of 276 miles and 5,322 square nautical miles of ocean.

Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. The MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education and public use of this national treasure.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS

Northern Management Area (NMA) in California

On February 26, 2004, the Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program announced that he will establish a Northern Management Area (NMA) within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This area extends from the San Mateo/Santa Cruz line northward to the existing boundary between the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. The current legal boundaries of the two sanctuaries will not be changed. The Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary will assume management and administrative responsibilities of the NMA in March 2004. This issue has received significant attention from the Members of Congress, area communities, local governments and the media for the last seven years. Since Monterey Bay Sanctuary's designation in 1992, the northern portion of the sanctuary has been under co-management with the Gulf of

the Farallones Sanctuary. The NMSP decided to resolve the co-management issue during the Joint Management Plan Review process (JMPR), a process currently underway to revise the management plans of Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank Sanctuaries. The local communities of the NMA have for years felt geographically aligned with the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary. This new management structure seeks to enhance sanctuary resource management by keeping the communities closer to the managing sanctuary staff. This solution is the result of an open public process, and some data collection and analysis. The NMSP considered input from the JMPR boundary assessment team, advisory councils, general public, and local and federally elected officials. The Director views this as a long-term solution that gives one sanctuary the decision-making authority, brings both advisory councils together, and aligns the sanctuary management to encourage more community involvement.

North Pacific Humpback Whale Study

NOAA announces the commencement of the largest North Pacific humpback whale study ever undertaken. The study--Structure of Populations, Level of Abundance, and Status of Humpbacks (SPLASH)--is unprecedented in its international cooperation and geographic scope. Researchers from the U.S., Japan, Russia, Mexico, Canada, Philippines, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua and Guatemala are collaborating in this effort to understand the population structure of humpback whales across the North Pacific, and to assess the status, trends and potential human impacts to this population.

American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and the Oceanography Society Ocean Research Conference

On February 15-20, the National Marine Sanctuary Program Education Coordinator and the National Oceanographic Data Center co-chaired a two-day special session on environmental education (Using Real-time Environmental Data for Education) at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and the Oceanography Society Ocean Research Conference in Hawaii. The sessions were extremely well attended with over 50 participants for each of the 22 sessions. Collaborators included the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and Texas A&M.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

Channel Islands NMS

On February 5th, the California Fish and Game voted to list the Xantu's murrelet as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. The Xantu's murrelet key habitat is the Channel Islands, with the largest nesting population on Santa Barbara Island. Key threats to this small seabird include habitat loss, excessive nest predation by invasive and native species (rats, deer mice), low nesting rates, and disturbance. The superintendent of Channel Islands National Park and the manager of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary both pledged to continue monitoring, conduct research and to support ongoing recovery efforts. The sanctuary's R/V Shearwater will support this season's almost weekly nesting surveys, beginning on March 22nd.

The NOAA R/V Shearwater was on display and open for dockside tours on Saturday, January 31, 2004 for the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's (SBMM) Community Day Event. Over 400 people participated in SBMM Community Day at the Santa Barbara Waterfront. Hands-on stations included a critter touch tank hosted by University of California Santa Barbara's Marine Science Institute, a ROV demonstration hosted by Santa Barbara City College's Marine Technology students, kelp beds, basket weaving, dockside tours of the R/V Shearwater and the US Coast Guard cutter Blackfin. The Channel Islands Argonauts were also invited to present their poster projects to the community, which compared and contrasted the isthmus of Panama to the Channel Islands, or the tropical rainforests to the kelp forests, or the native Panamanian people to the Chumash Indians.

Gulf of the Farallones NMS

The sanctuary continues to work with the Office of California Office of Spill Prevention and Response on revising the San Francisco Bay Area Contingency Plan, which is the regional plan for wildlife response efforts in the event of an oil spill. The plan covers the outer coast from southern San Mateo County through northern Sonoma County and all San Francisco Bay area counties. Continued close coordination with state officials is expected. The final plan is due this summer.

Court TV's program "Extreme Evidence" featured several shipwrecks in the Gulf of the Farallones as suspect sources of many oil spill and tarball incidents, which over the years have oiled and killed seabirds and other marine wildlife. The story explored a number of possible sources of the oil, including the sunken tanker Puerto Rican. However, through high-tech molecular "fingerprinting," scientists matched the "mystery spill" oil with that remaining in the shipwreck Jacob Luckenbach, a freighter headed for Korea that sank in 1953. In 2002, the Farallones sanctuary took part in the lightering operation, which removed 100,000 gallons of oil from the wreck.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Hawaii's world-renowned hotel chain Outrigger Hotels & Resorts announced a one-of-a-kind public-private agreement this week that allows the hotel chain to offer unique educational opportunities about the sanctuary to its guests. The Foundation will coordinate a series of permanent educational exhibits, expert lectures, ocean activities and community service projects at Outrigger's various properties. By far the most novel component is the Marine Life Kiosk, a prototype that took more than two years to complete. The event marking the signing of the agreement was a tremendous success. All four Hawaii TV stations covered the announcement as well as print media. The sanctuary's manager represented NOAA. Representing the foundation was board member Jean-Michel Cousteau. The Outrigger chain's general manager and the CEO were present to make the announcement. Numerous pre-schoolers wearing whale hats that they made during the educational program were surrounding the podium.

The Oahu Sanctuary staff co-sponsored Marine Conservation Evening at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve on March 6, 2004. This event was co-sponsored by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the University of Hawaii Sea Grant's Hanauma Bay Education Program in partnership with the Hanauma Bay education Program. Over 150 people attended the event, which included information sessions on marine protected species and other topics given by marine expert.



MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Staff is continuing work on writing the draft management plan. This includes estimating the budgets, timelines and performance indicators for each of the action plans. The MBNMS staff has completed work with NMSP headquarters on identifying the proposed regulatory changes associated with some of the action plans. We continue to have some delays in initiating the drafting of the environmental impact statement which in turn is causing delays in the scheduled release of the draft management plan and draft environmental impact statement for public review. At this time, the MBNMS is estimating the release of these documents in the winter of 2004 with public hearings in January 2005.

If you have questions regarding management plan, please contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217 or sean.morton@noaa.gov. Also, please visit the management plan website at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan> for any changes or updates on the joint management plan review.

MANAGEMENT

On February 18th Bill Douros, Holly Price, Andrew DeVogelaere, Huff McGonigal and Sean Morton met with 15 representatives of NOAA Fisheries and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, including Don McIsaac, Executive Director of the Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various intra-agency perspectives on ecosystem protection, its interface with fisheries management, and the fishery related components of the Sanctuary's draft management plan. Staff gave presentations on plans addressing Special Marine Protected Areas, the Effects of Trawling on Benthic Habitats, Davidson Seamount, Fisheries Issues in Research and Education, and Krill Harvesting. Areas of potential cooperation were identified and the Sanctuary received constructive input on means to effectively pursue the strategies that were presented. Additionally, several areas for specific action were identified by way of either recommendation or request on the part of NMFS and PFMC staff, including presentations at upcoming PFMC meetings, the possibility of the Sanctuary sharing an FTE with NMFS, and development of an MOU between PFMC, NMFS SWR, and NOS, patterned after the MOU developed by Grey's Reef. For information contact Holly at (831) 647-4247.

Bill Douros participated in a two-day meeting hosted by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the MPA Science Center on February 26, 27th. The meeting was held to begin planning for a science panel who will be asked for help integrating fisheries science with MPA design and designation. For more information, contact Bill at (831) 647-4201.

Nicole Capps, Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator, along with Stephanie Harlan, MBNMS Advisory Council Chair, attended the Fourth Annual Advisory Council Chairs/Coordinators Meeting in Savannah, Georgia the week of February 23rd. Case studies were presented by representatives from 10 advisory councils as well as three presentations from Parks Canada, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the National Parks Service. The representatives from each advisory council met on Thursday, February 26th to advise the National Marine Sanctuary Program on cruise ships, policy issues and NMSA reauthorization. For more information, contact Nicole at (831) 647-4206.

On Thursday March 4, 2004, Bill Douros, MBNMS Superintendent, hosted a meeting involving the West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries and the Lab Directors and science team leaders of the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest and Northwest Science Centers. Representatives from NMSP and NMFS headquarters also participated. The focus of the meeting, held at the Santa Cruz NMFS lab, was how to increase collaboration and cooperation on vessel time allocation and basic research and science on the west coast of the U.S. A total of eight actions were agreed to by the group, including

holding a second meeting by early May 2004 to identify areas of improving NOAA productivity on planned NMFS and NOS/NMSP research cruises for 2005, and developing a schedule for joint Principal Investigator meetings soon thereafter. The May 2004 meeting would also include a discussion on the need for additional large research vessels on the west coast and how NMSP vessel assets may support NMFS work. Several other actions will lead to improving immediately what is already a fairly collaborative relationship on the west coast. A report of the March 4th meeting will be produced and distributed within a month. For more information, contact Bill at (831) 647-4201.

On March 12th, Superintendent Bill Douros, Management Plan Coordinator Sean Morton, and Environmental Policy Specialist Huff McGonigal attended a meeting in Silver Spring with staff from headquarters and CBNMS and GFNMS. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize cross-cutting regulatory language associated with the Joint Management Plan Review. Subjects discussed included discharge, cruise ships, introduced species, and wildlife disturbance. The in-person meeting was efficient and productive and language was agreed upon and adopted for all of the identified issues. For more information, contact Huff at (831) 647-4254.

On behalf of the MBNMS, Bill Douros offered his endorsement of the state of California's Highway 1 Management Plan along the Big Sur coast at a meeting on Monday, March 15. Approximately 20 agencies, elected officials and community leaders signed off on the plan, which in part was developed to help CalTrans develop response actions for Highway 1 washouts by means other than dumping material into the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

On January 28, Josh Pederson gave a presentation to volunteer docents in training at the UCSC Seymour Center in Santa Cruz. The presentation focused on the history, daily operations, and goals of the MBNMS. The SIMoN website was also demonstrated and recommended as a resource for docents to learn about sanctuary habitats, issues, and monitoring efforts.

On January 20, 22, 27, and 29, Chad King, SIMoN Data Analyses Specialist, gave a 25 minute presentation on the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) to four separate groups of Monterey Bay Aquarium volunteer SCUBA divers. For more information, please contact Chad at (831) 647-4248 or chad.king@noaa.gov

On February 11, 2004, Josh Pederson, SIMoN Outreach Specialist, Irina Kogan, MBNMS/MBARI Research Fellow and Steve Lonhart, SIMoN Scientist, attended the 7th Biennial Workshop on Research in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Josh gave a talk and presented a poster on the new SIMoN website and Irina presented a poster on the ATOC/Pioneer Seamount cable survey. For more information, contact Irina at (831) 647-4228.

Erica Burton, Research Specialist, and Jean de Marignac, SIMoN Scientist, attended the Western Groundfish Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, from February 9 to 13. They presented two posters on research projects that were led by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, "Exploring Davidson Seamount: Biological Characterization and Protection" and "Characterization of the Geology, Benthic Habitats, and Fish Assemblage of the Headward Portion of Partington Canyon, CA". For additional information, contact Jean at 831-647-4214.

The Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) launched a new interactive mapping website to disseminate water quality monitoring location information proximal to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (<http://mbnms-simon.org/other/gen/imaps.php>). Use this site for generating maps of watersheds, locating monitoring program information, linking to data sets at individual stations, downloading GIS layers, and more. For more information, contact Chad at (831) 647-4248 or see the SIMoN website at www.mbnms-simon.org.

Josh Pederson, SIMoN Outreach Specialist, added three-dimensional imagery of the Sanctuary seafloor to the SIMoN website. These images were created by Chad King, SIMoN GIS Specialist, and can be found on the SIMoN website at http://www.mbnms-simon.org/other/moreLinks/whats_new_images.php. For more information, contact Josh at (831) 647-4260.

A graduate seminar class at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Ecology of Monterey Bay, is using the MBNMS Site Characterization (<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sitechar/welcome.html>) as their starting point to study the natural history of the habitats found in Monterey Bay. The Sanctuary is participating in this effort and will use student presentations/reports in developing updated material for the site. For more information, contact Erica Burton, Research Specialist, at (831) 647-4246.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff recently attended the first *Caulerpa* Working Group meeting hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on February 25 and 26, 2004. The meeting was held at the Elihu Harris State Building, located in downtown Oakland and included representatives from state and Federal agencies, as well as researchers and consultants familiar with the eradication efforts in southern California. Participants began to draft the *Caulerpa* National Management Plan, which will be submitted to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) later this year. The ANSTF is "an intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species, and implements the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) of 1990." For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

A comprehensive tutorial for SIMoN's interactive maps has been posted on the website at <http://www.mbnms-simon.org/other/gen/imaps.php>. Use this feature of the site to develop GIS maps of monitoring information in the Central California region. For more information, contact Chad at (831) 647-4248.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) initiated and co-sponsored a Coastal Construction Seminar for the Monterey Bay region conducted on March 23. The MBNMS coordinated with DMC Construction and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to conduct training on MBNMS and CCC regulatory requirements regarding coastal construction activities and on coastal construction techniques that minimize or eliminate collateral damage to the marine environment. The majority of the session was spent exploring best management practices for coastal construction. DMC Construction was instrumental in the logistical preparations, mailing list development, and selection of guest speakers from highly regarded construction firms in California. Forty-one participants from construction companies and local government attended. The meeting was held at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute shoreline facility at Moss Landing, which served as a case study for many of the construction principles and techniques discussed in the meeting.

Katie Siegler gave a presentation to 75 attendees at the "Farms and Fishes" workshop at the Ecological Farming Association Conference in Pacific Grove. She also helped co-organize this unique workshop, which for the first time brought together two diverse industries, fishing and farming, evaluated their connections and implications for watershed management. SAC members representing agriculture, fishing, conservation and public seats also gave excellent presentations at the event. For more information, contact Katie at (831) 647-4219.

Holly Price, Huff McGonigal and Chad King met with Ecotrust, a nonprofit organization that specializes in socioeconomic analyses of fisheries and ecological issues. Ecotrust will be conducting an initial spatial analysis within the MBNMS of the size and distribution of fisheries by gear types, ports and species, catch/unit effort and shifts in effort based on recent management measures. This work will extend a similar evaluation and GIS mapping underway in the GFNMS and CBNMS, and will provide valuable background socioeconomic information for consideration by the Special MPA workgroup. For more information, contact Holly at (831) 647-4247.

On January 23, Lisa de Marignac, Chad King, Irina Kogan, and Steve Lonhart met with Caltrans to discuss available GIS data layers focusing on the Big Sur region. As part of the Coast Highway Management Plan, this shoreline inventory of spatial data will assist decision-making regarding landslide disposal activities along the Big Sur coast. For more information, contact Lisa at (831) 647-4201.

Brad Damitz, Environmental Policy Specialist, attended a planning meeting for BLM's California Coastal National

Monument in Sacramento on February 11th to discuss management alternatives, including zoning options, for the Monument's Resource Management Plan. For more information, contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

Brad Damitz attended the GFNMS Advisory Council meeting on February 12th, in Point Reyes Station. For more information, contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

Deirdre Hall and Holly Price attended a Peer Review Workshop on US Army Corps of Engineers Comparative Risk Assessment of Dredged Material Management Alternatives for Moss Landing Harbor. The Peer Review Panel dissected the document over a two day period, and ascertained that the document does not adequately assess the ecological risks associated with disposing of highly contaminated sediment at SF-12, and can therefore not be used as a tool to evaluate changes to the current regulatory processes. The panel recommended substantial changes to the document to address uncertainties associated with the proposal. For more information, contact deirdre.hall@noaa.gov.

Lisa Emanuelson attended a meeting of the Monterey 99's a local womens pilot association. Pilots were asked to give feedback on information collection, flying habits and airport use in order to more efficiently target pilots under the Wildlife Disturbance Action Plan.

Holly Price, Resource Protection Coordinator, gave a presentation to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in Tacoma Washington on four MBNMS Management Plan action plans related to fisheries issues, including Special Marine Protected Areas, Trawling Impacts on Benthic Habitats, Krill Harvesting and incorporation of the Davidson Seamount into the MBNMS. The PFMC was also presented with an approximate timeline for future consultations and requests, and they responded that they appreciated the early coordination on these topics. Two local fishing representatives testified during the public comment period with concerns regarding the Sanctuary's future role in fishery issues. For more information, contact Holly at (831) 647-4247.

Brad Damitz, Environmental Policy Specialist, attended a Desalination Planning Handbook Meeting in Santa Barbara, California on March 12th. The purpose of the workshop was to gather input on a Desalination Planning Handbook being developed by the CA Department of Water Resources. For more information, contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

Brad Damitz testified at a Monterey County Planning Commission meeting on March 11th, regarding the County's Draft General Plan, which was recently released. Brad's comments reflected the Sanctuary's concerns that desalination and coastal armoring were not adequately addressed in the draft plan. The Sanctuary will also submit a formal comment letter to the County. For more information, contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

The first cruise ship of the season arrived in Monterey on March 6th. The visit by Silversea Cruises' Silver Wind, was the first of 21 planned visits to Monterey in 2004. The Sanctuary has developed a system for advanced communication with and tracking of vessels planning to visit Monterey, and letters and information packets were sent to both corporate representatives and the vessel Captain, which provided a background of the Sanctuary's boundaries, regulations, and policies regarding cruise ships, as well as other environmental considerations such as tender operations, and anchoring locations. All cruise ships visiting Monterey have committed in writing to withhold discharge of any materials other than routine engine cooling water, while operating within the boundaries of the MBNMS. For more information contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

Enforcement

Scott Kathey completed a week of training in the Florida Keys to become a NOAA Divemaster. This training will assist the MBNMS by providing an ability to oversee divers during Sanctuary-sponsored research cruises. For more information, contact Scott at (831) 647-4251.

On February 20th, Bob Yerena and Scott Kathey attended a workshop sponsored by the Department of Justice and the United States Coast Guard addressing detection and enforcement of discharges from ships. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4201.

Bob Yerena and Scott Kathey attended a workshop sponsored by the Coast Guard 11th District to discuss resource protection concerns related to Coast Guard flight operations within the MBNMS, GFNMS, and CBNMS. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4201.

Scott Kathey and Bob Yerena monitored a Mavericks big wave surfing competition to observe MPWC operations and impacts in an area (Pillar Point) being considered in the JMPR for special permitting of tow-in surfing events. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4201.

Bob Yerena responded to an OLE hotline report of a ghost net on a primary elephant seal haulout area in San Simeon. The MBNMS paid for removal and disposal of the net. Bob was assisted by CA Fish and Game and State Parks partners in the net removal. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4201.

Water Quality

On January 22nd, Sanctuary staff conducted a meeting of the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Committee. Consisting of representatives from federal and state agencies, conservation groups, and industry, the Committee is tasked with guiding the development and implementation of the WQPP. Discussion topics included an analysis of ongoing and future implementation projects and appropriate funding sources, Committee membership and function, recent events such as the fish kill in the Pescadero Marsh and upcoming urban runoff and water quality monitoring workshops. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

Bridget Hoover and Lisa Emanuelson met with teachers at Carmel Valley Middle School to demonstrate water quality monitoring techniques and equipment. Carmel Valley Middle School received a BWET grant and is incorporating water monitoring on the Carmel River as part of the curriculum. For more information, contact Bridget at (831) 883-9303.

On Friday, January 23rd, Lisa Emanuelson, Resource Issue Education Specialist, met with a representative from the City of Seaside to discuss collaboration between the city and the Sanctuary on restaurant and automotive outreach and general stormwater education programs. Pending approval from management, the City and Sanctuary will begin a targeted program seeking to educate business and citizens about stormwater protection. For more information contact Lisa at (831) 372-7918.

Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, and Suzanne Healy, Environmental Projects Analyst for the City of Santa Cruz, delivered a presentation to the City Public Works Commission focusing on stormwater planning, and the previous and ongoing collaboration efforts between the City and the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Chris at (831) 420-1670.

On February 10th, Robert Ketley, contractor to the MBNMS, delivered a presentation to thirty City of Santa Cruz employees from the Planning, Building, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and the Water Departments. The talk focused on stormwater and construction Best Management Practices to reduce impacts to the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, at (831) 420-1670.

On Wednesday, February 11th, Chris Coburn attended a workshop held at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve that focused on the developing California Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (CRAM). Based on the EPA's general approach to classifying wetlands, CRAM is a statewide effort being developed to provide a rapid, scientifically defensible, and repeatable assessment methodology that can be used routinely in wetland monitoring and assessment programs. For more information contact Chris at (831) 420-1670.

On Monday, February 9th, Chris Coburn attended a workshop designed to inform citizens about the California Coastal Act, and how it is implemented by the California Coastal Commission that was held by the Organization of Regional Coastal Activists (ORCA). The workshop was led by Sara Wan, who is a current member and past Chair of the Coastal Commission. For more information, contact Chris at (831) 420-1670.

Sixty participants attended a Central Coast Water Quality Monitoring Workshop hosted by MBNMS, the Resources Legacy Fund and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and were presented with matrices and maps summarizing monitoring

programs in the Sanctuary region. Seven speakers gave excellent presentations on state, local and academic monitoring programs and results, including Bridget Hoover who presented results from the Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network. Afternoon discussion focused on ways to improve coordination, information sharing, sampling and funding for water quality monitoring efforts, and highlighted a presentation by Andrew DeVogelaere on use of the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) as an interactive website tool for water quality information. For more information, contact Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, at (831) 420-1670.

Lisa Emanuelson met with Ana Maria Rebola and Alyson Tom of Santa Cruz County to discuss how the Sanctuary can help Santa Cruz County meet requirements of their Phase II Stormwater Permit. Many ideas were discussed along the Sanctuary's role in stormwater education in Santa Cruz County. For more information, contact Lisa at (831) 372-7918.

Lisa Emanuelson attended the Stormwater Information Exchange at Moss Landing. Attendees of the meeting were notified of the Sanctuary Currents Symposium and the Urban Runoff Workshop coming up in the next few months. Local cities and Phase II permittees were in attendance to discuss permit requirements and exchange information. For more information contact Lisa at (831) 372-7918.

Lisa Emanuelson gave a presentation to students at Liberty Family Academy on stormwater and urban runoff. Students were treated to a slide show on sanctuary inhabitants as well as concerns over urban runoff. The watershed model was used to demonstrate to the students what urban runoff is and how it can be damaging to the ocean environment. For more information, contact Lisa (831) 372-7918.

On March 12th, Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Director, gave an overview of the WQPP to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Government's Board of Directors. Chris' talk highlighted the partnerships developed as a part of the WQPP and the integral role that they play in implementing the Program's strategies. Chris also updated the Board on the February 6th Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting. The AMBAG Board also approved a motion to cosponsor an upcoming workshop focusing on urban runoff. For more information, contact Chris at (831) 420-1670.

The Pescadero/Butano Watershed Assessment Report has been completed providing a detailed look at sediment dynamics and salmonid habitat in the area. Katie Siegler, Water Quality Protection Program, coordinated development of this study in conjunction with on-farm demonstration projects to reduce erosion and a volunteer water quality monitoring project. The Assessment provides the community with valuable information for future planning and restoration work. The project was funded by the State Water Resources Control Board. For more information, contact Katie at (831) 647-4219 or katiesiegler@earthlink.net.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network (Network) released to the public, the Snapshot Day 2003 final report and the First Flush 2003 summary. Snapshot Day is a spring event in which over 120 streams are monitored for water quality from Pacifica to Morro Bay. First Flush is the first big rain of the season in which 17 storm drain outfalls are monitored for pollutants and toxicity in urban runoff. Both events have taken place over the last four years, specific areas of concern have been identified and are described in the report on line at <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/> For more information, contact Bridget Hoover, Network Coordinator, at (831) 883-9303.

Bridget Hoover presented the results of the First Flush 2003 to staff from the City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department and Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Dept. Areas needing further investigation were discussed and the Dept. of Environmental Compliance will follow up on several of them in the near future. For more information, contact Bridget at (831) 883-9303.

Bridget Hoover participated in a two-day "Train the Trainers" workshop with the Coastal Watershed Council (NGO). Participants will be the watershed coordinators for the Clean Streams program in five Monterey Bay coastal watersheds. Water quality monitoring by citizen volunteers will begin in April. For more information, contact Bridget at (831) 883-9303.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

MERITO

Dawn Hayes, Karen Grimmer, and Dennis Long, executive director of Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation interviewed six qualified candidates for the two open MERITO positions, Program Manager and Bilingual Outreach Specialist. For more information, contact Karen at (831) 647-4253.

On January 28, MERITO facilitated a restoration, service-learning, field experience to 25 educators attending a 4-day California Environmental Educators Community (CREEC) workshop. Participants learned about MERITO's multicultural environmental education field programs for students and restored a hillside at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, planting over 200 native seedlings. For more information, contact Michelle at (831) 566-7569.



Watsonville students from the MERITO Watershed Academy replant native plants to restore hillside habitat at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

On January 30, MERITO staff worked with the Elkhorn Slough Reserve to lead 6th-8th grade Watsonville students in a native plant restoration, field experience. Lakeview is one of 3 middle school from the Pájaro Valley Unified School District implementing MERITO's afterschool Watershed Institute this year. Student experiences include native plant restoration, crab monitoring and conservation efforts with local scientists in their watershed. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 566-7569.

LiMPETS

Lisa Emanuelson presented the LiMPETS program to a group of 10 teachers at the Camp SEALab Monterey Bay teacher workshop on January 31st. The teachers learned about the program, how to use LiMPETS with their students, basic protocols, and how to get more involved. Teachers also assisted in the building of two more field kits to be housed at Camp SEALab. For more information, contact Lisa at (831) 372-7918.

Special Events

On Thursday, February 5, 2004, a Marine Wildlife Viewing workshop was held at the Monterey Beach Resort. In attendance were 60 members of the recreational business community. Everyone broke out into round-table discussions to answer several questions regarding wildlife viewing. For more information, contact Michele Roest at (805) 927-2145.

February 6-8, 2004, Michele Roest, Education and Outreach Specialist, participated in the Marine Mammal Weekend Seminar at Camp Ocean Pines. The MBNMS and the Friends of the Elephant Seal cosponsored this event. For more information, contact Michele at (805) 927-2145.

On Saturday, February 7, 2004 the annual Otter Bowl competition was held at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, co-hosted by the MBNMS and the MATE Center. Over 90 high school students and teachers participated in the annual marine science competition, one of 24 conducted nationally and coordinated by CORE - Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education. Over 50 volunteers support the event, and many local businesses provided prizes and in-kind support. One of the new teams, Albany High School, recruited under the diversity initiative, came in second to the four-year reigning champions - Mission San José. For more information, contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253.

On February 14, the MBNMS displayed their near-life sized humpback whale at Seacliff State Beach and provided informational brochures to all visitors and participants of the California State Parks run Migration Festival. The festival celebrated migrating animals such as monarchs, snowy plovers and different whale species at three Santa Cruz State Park

sites. For more information contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On February 26, MERITO staff presented to 18 beginning English language learners through Watsonville's Adult Education program. The presentation was followed by a demonstration of the watershed model and a sign up period for the upcoming MERITO "Kayak Day". Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. These MERITO presentations are part of an ongoing series in partnership with Pájaro Valley Unified School District. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton (831) 647-4211.

On February 26, MERITO staff presented an introduction to the sanctuary and in class watershed activities for twelve 6th – 8th grade students now enrolled in the MERITO Watershed after-school program at Rolling Hills Middle School in Watsonville. This is the third middle school in the Pájaro Valley Unified School District now implementing the MERITO watershed and ocean science field-based curriculum. The program provides students with hands-on field experiences related to watershed and marine conservation. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton (831) 647-4211.

More than 275 people attended the 12th annual MBNMS Sanctuary Currents Symposium, "Clean Waters, Healthy Oceans" held at CSUMB on March 6 and heard from water quality experts as they discussed agriculture's role in protecting water quality, desalination, beach water quality, DDT, chemical contaminants in killer whales, and non-point source pollution. More than 40 students and scientists presented research posters and 25 organizations set up exhibits and displays. John Pearse from UCSC gave the Ricketts Memorial Lecture on the health of the ocean's intertidal and the day ended with the Sanctuary Awards and Reception. The symposium was sponsored by many other groups including the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Hopkins Marine Station. For more information, contact Liz Love at liz.love@noaa.gov

On March 4, MERITO staff presented to 16 intermediate/advance English language learners through Watsonville's Adult Education program. The presentation was followed by a demonstration of the watershed model and a sign up period for the upcoming MERITO "Kayak Day". Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. These MERITO presentations are part of an ongoing series in partnership with Pájaro Valley Unified School District. For more information, contact Michelle at (831) 647-4211.

On March 4, the MERITO staff provided an introduction to Elkhorn Slough National Research Reserve using an Elkhorn Slough Visitor Center Scavenger Hunt and a nature hike for twelve 6th – 8th grade students enrolled in the MERITO Watershed after-school program at Rolling Hills Middle School in Watsonville. This is the third middle school in the Pájaro Valley Unified School District now implementing the MERITO watershed and ocean science field-based curriculum. The program provides students with hands-on field experiences related to watershed and marine conservation. For more information contact, Michelle at (831) 647-4211.

New Products

Threatened and Thriving Posters

The final two posters in the Threatened and Thriving series "Right Whale and Western Gull " and "Sea Otters and Giant Kelp" are now available. To obtain any of the posters in the Threatened and Thriving series, contact the MBNMS office at (831) 647-4201.



Families learn about the wonders of our sanctuary and its watersheds through a day on the Elkhorn Slough during the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's "MERITO Kayak Day"

Our 6th edition of *Ecosystem Observations* has been published and is being distributed to the public. This 28 page document includes an annual report for the MBNMS, as well as contributed articles from scientists on a variety of current research topics related to the sanctuary. For more information, or to request a copy, contact Liz Love at liz.love@noaa.gov

SIGNIFICANT NEWS COVERAGE

“Sanctuary looks for input in writing guidelines” by Brian Seals, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 1/31/04

“Monterey Bay marine sanctuary meeting to focus on budget, goals” Monterey County Herald, 1/31/04

“Calif. museum celebrates sport first seen in 1885. Stunning scenery and surfing camps offer appeal” by Bob Downing, Akron Beacon Journal, 2/1/04

“Watch marine life responsibly; The marine wildlife viewing handbook is a gift for nature” by Heidi Tiura, Guest Commentary, Monterey County Herald, 2/1/04

“A birthday to remember” by Heidi Tiura and Steph Dutton, The Californian, 2/2/04

On February 4, 2004 two MBNMS press releases were cleared and distributed pertaining to the MBNMS Advisory Council. One announced the appointment of seven members and alternates to the Advisory Council; the other called for applicants to fill open seats for business and alternates for agriculture, recreation and education. For more information, contact Rachel Saunders at (831) 647-4237.

"Watch Marine Life Responsibly," guest commentary by Heidi Tiura, Monterey Herald, February 1, 2004

"Workshop will explain responsible marine wildlife interaction," Monterey Herald, Your Town, February 5, 2004

"Scholarship Honors Vreeland," Monterey Herald, Your Town, February 6, 2004.

“Monterey Bay group, others to hold conservation symposium” Monterey County Herald, 2/14/04

“Saving nature together” by Heidi Tiura, The Californian, 2/16/04

“After 60 years on the ocean floor, sunken oil tanker getting new attention” by Steve Chawkins, Monterey County Herald, 2/19/04

“Marine sanctuary presents seminar on water quality” Monterey County Herald, 2/19/04

“Fight cruelty to marine life” The Herald’s View, Monterey County Herald, 2/19/04

“Experts probe WWII wreck” by Steve Chawkins, Los Angeles Times, 2/19/04

“Farmers and environmentalists team up for water; Farmers in six counties use plants and insects to reduce chemical runoff” by Kaci Elder, The Pinnacle, 2/26/04

“John Pearse to deliver Ricketts Memorial Lecture at Sanctuary Symposium” by Tim Stephens, UC Santa Cruz Currents, 3/1/04

News Briefs/AP, San Jose Mercury News, 2/27/04

News briefs from California's Central Coast, The Associated Press, San Francisco Chronicle, 2/27/04

News briefs from California's Central Coast, The Associated Press, San Diego Union Tribune, Sarasota Herald Tribune, 2/27/04

AP News Briefs, Contra Costa Times, 2/27/04

Storms delay statewide whale counts, by Nina Wu, PAC Bus News, LATEST NEWS

"Sewage spills cause criticism" by Jeanine Gore, Half Moon Bay Review, 2/26/04

"Caught in the Sanctuary's web; New aquarium site keeps tabs on developments in Monterey Bay" by Mason Inman, Monterey County Herald, 1/1/04

"Symposium to focus on Bay water quality" Santa Cruz Sentinel, 3/5/04

"Seaweed threatens coast; Experts fear plant could choke Monterey Bay life" by Jessica Porter, San Jose Mercury News, 3/8/04

"Monterey Bay still protected from oil drilling" Editorial, Monterey County Herald, 3/7/04

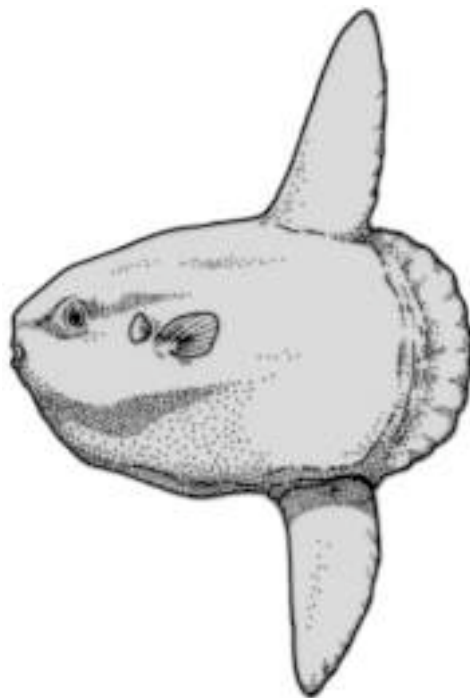
"Seaweed invades bay: Asian kelp confined to harbor" by Mason Inman, Monterey County Herald, 3/9/04

"P.G. to divert runoff from 2 drains to Marina treatment plant" by Quinn Eastman, Monterey County Herald, 3/11/04

"Gulf of the Farallones staff will now oversee coastal water off San Mateo County" by Lou Sian, Pacifica Tribune, 3/10/04

"Helping Save our Shore, New director aims to stabilize advocacy group" by Brian Seals, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 3/11/04

"A 'slug' farewell; A conversation with outgoing UCSC Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood", by Jondi Gumz, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 3/14/04



WEB SITE (<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the MBNMS web site.

- MERITO
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/merito/welcome.html>
- MBNMS Wildlife Viewing Workshop
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/new/news/012604wwcovlet.html>
- News
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/new/welcome.html>

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.
Comments and suggestions can be sent to andrew.white@noaa.gov.*

FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

SIMON

www.mbnms-simon.org

Snapshot Day

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html>

National Marine Sanctuary Program

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Publications Library

www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/library/library.html

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

<http://neres.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

CALENDAR

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| APRIL | |
| Apr 1-26 | McArthur II Research Cruise |
| Apr 2 | SAC Meeting at UCSC Long Marine Lab Seymour Discovery Center |
| Apr 3 | Storm Drain Stenciling in Pacific Grove with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Student Oceanography Club |
| Apr 9 | RAP Meeting at Elkhorn Slough Natural Estuarine Research Reserve |
| Apr 20 | CWG Meeting, 9:30-12:30, Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |
| Apr 24 | MERITO participation in "Conferencia Familia" (Watsonville) |
| Apr 24 | LiMPETS Program studying sand crabs with the Ventana Wilderness Society |
| Apr 25 | MERITO participation in Earth Day/Day of the Child Celebration (Watsonville) |
| MAY | |
| May 1 | Snapshot Day Water Monitoring Event |
| May 4 | TEAMOcean Kayaker Outreach training #1 (6:30-9:30 MBNMS Conference Room) |
| May 6 | Regional Urban Runoff Workshop (Santa Cruz County Aq Extension Hall) |
| May 9 | MERITO Mother's Day Celebration (Elkhorn Slough Natural Estuarine Research Reserve) |
| May 11 | TEAMOcean Kayaker Outreach training #2 (6:30-9:30 MBNMS Conference Room) |
| May 14 | RAP Meeting at National Marine Fisheries Lab in Santa Cruz |
| May 17 | SEP Meeting at Moss Landing Marine Labs, 3:30-5:30 |
| May 18 | CWG Meeting, 9:30-12:30, Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |
| May 18 | TEAMOcean Kayaker Outreach training #3 (6:30-9:30 MBNMS Conference Room) |
| May 19 | BTAP Meeting, 9:30-11:30 (Santa Cruz County CVC, 1211 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz) |
| May 25 | TEAMOcean Kayaker Outreach training #3 (6:30-9:30 MBNMS Conference Room) |
| May 28 | TEAMOcean Kayaker Outreach Program's first day on the water at Elkhorn Slough and Cannery Row |
| JUNE | |
| June 2-10 | <i>R/V Shearwater</i> in Monterey |
| June 4 | SAC Meeting at the Pacific Grove Community Center |
| June 5 | Fishermen's Fiesta, 11:00-4:00 Monterey Harbor Wharf #2 and Maritime Museum |
| June 15 | CWG Meeting, 9:30-12:30, Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |
| June 16 | BTAP Meeting, 9:30-11:30 (Cannery Row Company Board Room, 765 Wave Street, Monterey) |
| JULY | |
| July 1-9 | MATE Center Forum: "Building remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV's)" |
| July 9 | RAP Meeting in Half Moon Bay |
| July 11-17 | MATE Center Forum: "GIS and Marine Science: Using GIS to Model Marine Habitats" |
| July 19 | SEP Meeting, San Simeon Field Trip, 10:00-2:00 |
| July 20 | CWG Meeting, 9:30-12:30, Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |
| AUGUST | |
| Aug 6 | SAC Meeting in Cambria |
| SEPTEMBER | |
| Sept 10 | RAP Meeting at the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Center |
| Sept 15 | BTAP Meeting, 9:30-11:30 (Santa Cruz County CVC, 1211 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz) |
| Sept 20 | SEP Meeting at the Seymour Discovery Center, 3:30-5:30 |
| Sept 21 | CWG Meeting, 9:30-12:30, Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |
| OCTOBER | |
| Oct 1 | SAC Meeting at the Big Sur Lodge |
| Oct 19 | CWG Meeting, 9:30-12:30, Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
<http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory.html>

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/internship.html>

Sign up for the MBNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming Sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its Working Groups:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/discussiongroups/disgroups.html>.

MBNMS Staff

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Irina Kogan – Research Fellow
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